

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00354 140203Z

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5645

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, MX

SUBJ: MEXICAN IMPORT DUTY ON BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

REF: STATE 4023, 1/8/75 AND EMBASSY'S 0087, 1/4/75

1. LOCAL FIRM REPORTS MEETING OF INSTITUTO MEXICANO DEL LIBRO ON JANUARY 3 EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO DUTIES BUT PRODUCED NO ORGANIZED APPROACH TO PROBLEM. MEANTIME UNNAMED OFFICIALS IN MEXICAN CUSTOMS ARE BEING QUOTED AS SAYING THE DUTY REGISTERED IN NEW TARIFF WAS "A MISTAKE". TWO IMPORTERS OF BOOKS SAY THEY HAVE WITHDRAWN SHIPMENTS WITHOUT PAYMENT OF DUTY.
2. SOURCES AGREE ORIGIN OF ACTION PROBABLY THE EXTENSIVE IMPORTS OF BOOKS FROM SPAIN, WHOSE PUBLISHERS REPORTEDLY ENJOY GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION AND POSTAL RATE CONCESSIONS. ARGENTINA ALSO IMPORTANT SUPPLIER TO THIS MARKET. LOCAL PUBLISHING HOUSES PERIODICALLY ARE QUOTED BY PRESS AS DEMANDING PROTECTION.
3. RUMORS NOW ARE THAT QUOTA RESTRICTIONS WILL BE DEVELOPED ON PUBLICATIONS IN SPANISH, ALTHOUGH MEXICO CONCEIVABLY MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO EXEMPT LAFTA, HENCE LEAVING ARGENTINA WITHOUT BARRIER TO THIS MARKET.
4. EMBASSY CONTACT NOW BELIEVES THAT BOOKS AND MAGAZINES IN ENGLISH WILL CONTINUE TO ENTER WITHOUT PAYMENT OF DUTIES AND WITHOUT QUOTA RESTRICTIONS. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW MATTER AND REPORTS STATUS AT LATER DATE.

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